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MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO

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SOUNDS & SILENCE

*'Oldest Post' det
delights depot with
annual performance*

BY LANCE CPL.
DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron Staff

The Silent Drill Platoon and the Commandant's Own Drum and Bugle Corps graced the depot with a performance Saturday for this year's annual Battle Color ceremony.

A mass of Marines, sailors, civilians and recruits gathered at Shepherd Memorial Drill Field and Pavilion for one of the year's most anticipated performances at the depot.

The master of ceremonies intro-

Battle Color Detachment

The Marines featured in the Battle Color ceremony – "The Commandant's Own," the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps; the Silent Drill Platoon; and the Marine Corps Color Guard, led by the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps – are all assigned to the "Oldest Post of the Corps," Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. They appear in hundreds of ceremonies annually in Washington, D.C., across the country and abroad.

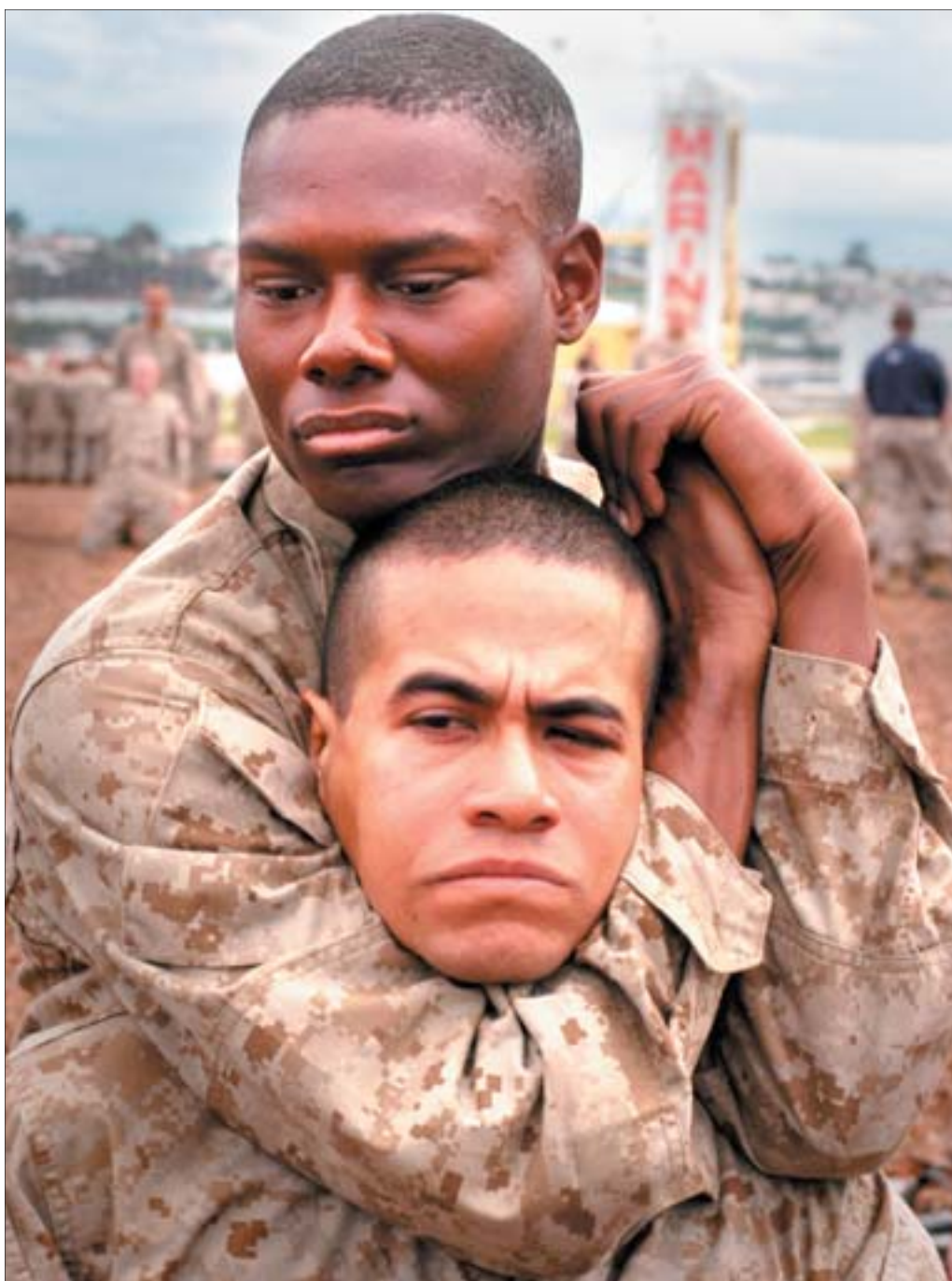
duced the Drum and Bugle Corps, which marched from the flag and made its way onto the parade deck while spectators sat in wait.

SEE **Color**, pg. 7



The Commandant's Own executes an "eyes right" salute while passing the reviewing general at Saturday's ceremony conclusion. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

MARTIAL ARTS | CHOKED UP



Pvt. Parrish D. Phillips Jr., Platoon 3055, chokes fellow platoon mate Pvt. Sergio Palomera, during Company K's final basic-skills martial arts test, Feb. 18, three weeks before graduation. Phillips and Palomera were among hundreds of other recruits who passed the test – a series of falls, chokes, strikes and bayonet and knife techniques – to earn a tan belt. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

High schoolers take Crucible Challenge, get taste of Marine boot camp



Seventeen-year-old Wes L. Johnson, a junior at Murrieta Valley High School in Murrieta, Calif., tests his physical strength and earns points for his team during the crunches portion of the Crucible Challenge at Camp Pendleton, Calif., recently. Sgt. Valerie A. Martinez/12th District

BY SGT. VALERIE A. MARTINEZ
12th Marine Corps Recruiting District

Two days, six hours of sleep, 52 teams, nine gut wrenching events and a dozen smiling drill instructors to tuck you in at night.

Not exactly how some high school juniors and seniors would choose to spend their weekend. But more than 240 of them from Southern California and Las Vegas recently chose to rise and shine to the soothing sound of a drill instructor's voice for a chance to compete in Recruiting Station San Diego's Crucible Challenge.

The third annual event at Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif. – themed "One weekend. One obstacle. One question ... Can you make it?" – gave students a small dose of what recruits experience during recruit training.

Sgt. Maj. Larock Benford, RS San Diego sergeant major,

said although "we can't have the students out here experiencing the entire Crucible, this allows them to take part in a small portion of what recruits experience during the final stages of recruit training."

The evolution began early Friday evening as the students flocked to their temporary living quarters: squad bays. Escorted by recruiters, teams of four were issued gear they would need to survive the next few days, assigned bunks and ordered into a formation.

"You all here right now are different. You've demonstrated a lot of guts just by being here," said Maj. John E. McDonough, RS San Diego commanding officer, during his opening remarks. "Whatever you do here, make sure you put your heart into it. Take pride in the fact that you made the decision to come out and take this challenge."

After the commanding officer's words of motivation,

SEE **Challenge**, pg. 5

RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

Marine continued training with Company K after learning his brother died in Iraq.

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MARCH National Women's History Month

BLUE MEANIES

Third Bn. beats Adjutant for first place in CG's Cup wallyball tourney

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HONOR PLATOON



SGT. MAJ. OF MARINE CORPS VISITS SAN DIEGO (left) Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, answered questions from junior Marines aboard the depot March 3. (right) Maj. Charles E. Fuller, Headquarters Company commanding officer, left, 1st Sgt. Nicolyn M. Woodarek, Headquarters Co. first sergeant, and Estrada promote Joshua E. Aldrich to lance corporal at Naval Medical Center San Diego March 4. Aldrich's March 1 promotion had been postponed because of surgery. Thomas Aldrich, his father and a prior Marine corporal, witnessed the promotion.

Cpl. Jared Padula/Combat Visual Information Center



Barbara Woodbury/Navy Marine Association

Regs for rendering honors in civvies requires hand over heart

BY SGT. RYAN SMITH
Chevron staff

Marines are taught to stand at attention while in civilian attire during the playing of the national anthem and during the raising and lowering of Colors. Apparently that teaching is wrong.

For years, the method of rendering honors to colors while in civilian attire have not been in accordance with the U.S. Code, Title 36, the U.S. Navy Regulations or the Marine Corps Flag Manual, according to Sgt. Maj. Ralph H. Drake, Training and Education Command sergeant major. All of these call for placing the right hand over the heart, vice just standing at attention.

The new Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Order P5060.1 is now in compliance. Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., has already modified its lesson plans to comply with the order and MCRD San Diego will be on board soon.

“Our teaching here through the (Academic Instruction Platoon) is fixing the oversight of not addressing what to do if you are in civilian attire or uncovered and will start teaching it as soon as possible,” said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher A. Walker, Recruit Training Regiment drill master.

“We know that personnel in civilian attire should place their hand over their heart,” added Walker. “Perhaps our problem is that recruits never practice this because they don’t wear civilian attire in boot camp. So when they get to the fleet, they just stand at attention when in civilian clothes. The order states – vaguely to some but clearly to others – that personnel in uniform with no cover on, should simply stand at attention and face the flag or source of music to render appropriate honor.”

For more information, consult the Marine Corps Drill and Ceremonies Manual, the Marine Corps Flag Manual and the U.S. Navy Regulation 1990.

Receiving Co. observes MCT to prepare boot camp grads

Dls discover new things about combat training at infantry school

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron staff

Receiving Company Marines loaded a bus leaving the depot for Camp Pendleton, Calif, March 2, expecting annual training in the gas chamber. They soon found out their company first sergeant had something else in mind.

Receiving Co. staff and drill instructors spent the morning with instructors from the School of Infantry learning about the training new Marines go through before hitting the fleet.

“We went so (drill instructors) could intelligently prepare the recruits,” said Gunnery Sgt. Bernard Dogan, Receiving Co. gunnery sergeant.

Marines greeted the SOI instructors at battalion classrooms that morning. First Sgt. Ronald Halcovich, acting Marine Combat Training Battalion sergeant major, opened with a brief introduction to the mission of SOI instructors and what the training entails.

One of the newer aspects of MCT that caught record-book clerk Cpl. Tiffany A. Gallegos’ attention was the guardian angel, which is a Marine who posts outside camp and watches over the area from a concealed position for any suspicious activity. This concept is commonly used



Receiving Company Marines Sgt. Kevin M. Jockell, left, Cpl. Tiffany A. Gallegos, Lance Cpl. Michael C. McBride, observe Pfc. Jose A. Andazola, Marine Combat Training Battalion, School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, Calif., during his follow on training from boot camp.

Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron photos

in Iraq, and its training has recently been weaved into SOI.

“We’ve developed the training to better prepare the Marines for what they might see in Iraq,” said Halcovich.

Another new MCT facet has been the introduction of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. Many Receiving Co. Marines did not train under this program when they originally attended the school years ago.

Additionally, Dogan said marksmanship training at MCT has made significant strides. In March 1990, when Dogan went through MCT, the marksmanship portion of the training was extremely basic, sticking to the safety rules and weapons handling.

“MCT has moved forward in the right direction,” said Dogan. Infantry Marines in his day had to go through MCT before joining Infantry Training Battalion.

In today’s MCT schedule, a class is given on close-quarters shooting. Marines also learn how to conduct patrols and ambushes and set up secure areas for camp. During a 22-day training cycle, Marines are trained with a variety of weapons, such as the AT-4 light anti-tank weapon and the M240G medium machine gun.

After classroom instruction, the Receiving Co. Marines observed a field exercise site where MCT Marines had been applying new skills.

“Watching the Marines on their field exercise, you could tell they knew what they were doing,” Gallegos said.

According to SOI leaders, the MCT training matrix is undergoing further revisions, which are scheduled to take effect in August.

Education office drops knowledge on new Marines

BY SAM BAGWELL
Contributing writer

Finishing high school and graduating from boot camp are milestones for many young enlisted Marines, but once the celebration has ended, those who have not made plans to further their education confront the question, “What will I do now?”

It is my job as the education officer, along with the command education officers and career planners aboard the depot, to act as a career guide, a vision of opportunities and resources to help answer that question. The Off-duty Voluntary Education Program is designed to help Marines who want to advance their education in a particular field or who have an educational goal in mind.

Some very popular fields today are radio and television, newspapers and magazine journalism, computer fields, business, homeland security, criminal justice, counseling and education. All are very glamorous and exciting fields. We also understand not everyone wants to go to a two- and four-year college; therefore, tuition assistance is not only authorized for undergraduate, graduate, independent study, and distance learning programs, but also for vocational and technical programs. Students must ensure institutions are accredited by agencies recognized by the Department of Education before enrolling.

A significant part of a Marine’s education is military tuition assistance. Because money is part of the total picture, Congress has given the Marine Corps the ability to pay up to 100 percent for tuition expenses. But tuition is not to exceed \$250 per semester credit or \$166.67 per quarter credit and up to \$4,500 per fiscal year.

Tuition assistance does not pay for books, computers, tools, incompletes, failing grades for undergraduates, D’s for graduate programs, or other tangible items.

To ensure each Marine is successful in his or her program, the Marine Corps has several guidelines for first-time tuition assistance users at the undergraduate level. Applicants with a general test score of 99 and below must complete the Test of Adult Basic Education with scores of 10.2 (10th grade) and higher to receive TA. If the test score is not satisfactory, Marines must complete the military academic skills program prior to receiving TA. Remote area is an exception to the policy, but Marines can only take one course at a time until they successfully complete 12 semester hours.

Also, all first-time users must complete a TA orientation class, College 101, prior to using TA. The orientation is designed to help Marines better understand the educational system. For more information about Marine Corps Tuition Assistance funding policy, read Marine Corps Administrative Message 576/04.

Remember the parable of the boiling frog. If you put a frog in boiling water, it will immediately jump out. Put it in water at room temperature, gradually heat the water, and the unsuspecting frog will cook. From this story, we learn an important lesson: Always be alert and attuned to your environment; don’t be lulled into a false sense of safety. Educate yourself and learn your environment.

Sam Bagwell is the depot education officer. For more education information, he can be reached at (619) 524-6865.

Face life’s hardships with prayer

BY CMDR. RANDAL B. CRAFT
Contributing writer

We all face a variety of hardships in our everyday lives ... some harder than others. I’d like to share a true story that can hopefully help to motivate and strengthen each reader when dealing with life’s hardships:



Cmdr. Craft

CHAPLAIN TIDINGS

I had an opportunity to speak with some of the men after they returned, and I was very moved by what they had to say. They said I could share our discussion with others. They had quite an amazing experience. They spent most of their time at sea on top of their overturned fishing boat, battling the environment of swells, waves, hunger, heat, cold, doubt and fear. How did they do it? Among other things, they encouraged each other and helped one another to resist the temptation to give up. They made use of various survival techniques. They also prayed to God, quite a bit for that matter. Prayer made a great difference. It strengthened their ability to face this hardship, and they felt that prayer played a big role in being found. The experience of these individuals can be a strong example for each of us.

How do we respond when we are confronted with difficult and sometimes traumatic situations in our lives? We may try to muster up some strong self-reliance as well as a positive attitude, and strive to do all we can to cope with and handle a hardship on our own. We may look to family members, close friends, our chain of command, our chaplain, Marine and family services, or any number of other government or civilian support organizations. What else might we do? What

about prayer? Let’s not leave that option until last.

How would you define prayer? Here are some of the definitions found in Webster’s II New Riverside University Dictionary: “A reverent petition made to God or another deity. The act of making such a petition. An act of communion with God, as a confession, praise, or thanksgiving.” How would you define prayer? What does it mean to you? There is no right or wrong way to pray. Prayer is what you desire to make it. I like to think of prayer as quality time with God ... an opportunity to open our hearts to God and share what lies deep within us. Prayer helps us to build a strong spiritual foundation of faith upon which we can each live our life. That foundation, coupled with God’s grace, can help to provide us with the strength we need to face life’s hardships.

We are all confronted by difficult situations, by adversities or challenges of some sort. Our response is the key to effectively handling the hardships we face. At a minimum, I recommend we do the following four things when responding to life’s hardships. First, pray to God (or according to your particular religious preference) and acknowledge his almighty presence. Praise God for his greatness and express gratitude for his love, mercy, and grace. Share our confessions, cares, and concerns with him and ask his forgiveness and blessings upon our situation. Second, nurture a sense of hope. Expect things to get better. Work to develop and retain a positive attitude. Third, strive to be persistent in resolving our hardships. Make an honest self-assessment and take the steps that may be necessary for positive change in our life. This could include setting new personal and professional goals. Fourth, have confidence in us, in our ability to deal with life’s adversities. We can face life’s hardships with dominion and overcome the discouragement that would try to pull us down. Let’s remember those military personnel who found themselves stranded off the coast of Oahu. Prayer was an important part of their response to the adversity in their lives. Let it be just as important for each of us as we face life’s hardships.

Cmdr. Randal B. Craft is the chaplain for Headquarters and Service Battalion.

Reporting and investigating crime in the military

BY CAPT. CHARLES C. MCLEOD
Contributing writer

Reporting and investigating crime in the military are procedurally different from reporting and investigating crime in civilian communities. In most

LEGAL

civilian communities, individuals report crimes to their local police departments. The police then conduct investigations, and when dealing with minor offenses, make initial decisions about whether to charge someone, for example, by issuing tickets. When dealing with major offenses, the police refer to the local district attorney, who decides whether to file serious charges. The local district attorney, representing the community and acting on its behalf, then decides how both minor and major cases are to be handled in court. Local courts, in turn, try the cases and impose punishments accordingly.

Under the direction of the commander-in-chief, military commanders are responsible for maintaining law and order in the communities over which they have authority, and for maintaining the good order and discipline of the fighting force. Reports of crimes by service members ultimately come to their commanders’ attention from civilian or

military law enforcement or criminal investigative agencies, as well as reports from individual service members. In many minor cases involving military offenses, there has been no formal investigation by any law enforcement agency, including military police.

To help commanders decide how to resolve charges, commanders must make a preliminary inquiry into any allegations against a member of the command under military procedural Rules for Courts-Martial found in the Manual for Courts-Martial. These informal inquiries are sometimes referred to as RCM 303 Inquiries. The focus of these inquiries is to examine the charges or suspected offenses. The inquiry should gather all reasonably available evidence bearing on guilt or innocence and any evidence relating to aggravation, extenuation, or mitigation. The commander can conduct this inquiry himself, appoint someone else in his command to do it, or sometimes in very serious cases, request assistance from civilian or military criminal investigative agencies. Although usually informal, the commander can require a more formal inquiry and a written report.

In complex or serious cases, commanders may need specialized, investigative assistance from military

criminal investigative organizations to decide whether or not to prefer charges, or what civilians term “press” charges. Although these organizations are independent of the command and possess independent investigative authority, they also provide professional investigative support to commanders upon request.

When the commander finishes the preliminary inquiry, he must make a decision on how to resolve the case. Unlike civilian communities where a district attorney decides whether or not to press charges, in the military, commanders make that decision. The commander who discovers an offense, upon investigation, may take no action, or he may use nonpunitive measures, nonjudicial punishment, or administrative action, such as an admonition or reprimand, or making an adverse comment on performance evaluations, or seeking discharge of the member from the service. In the alternative, the commander may also determine that criminal charges are appropriate. If so, he may prefer court-martial charges. The prefferal of charges, similar to swearing out a complaint in civilian jurisdictions, initiates the court martial process.

Capt. Charles C. McLeod is a depot legal-assistance officer.



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At right, Pfc. Gerardo M. Romero, Platoon 3053, front, dips on parallel bars with Pvt. Joshua L. Cartwright, Platoon 3054, and other Company K recruits in the same ability group during a physical 2.5-mile strength and endurance exercise March 1. Lance Cpl. Doran Gardner/Chevron

OneSource to help with moves

Marine Corps Community Services OneSource provides resources to help service members and families with permanent changes of station. Consultants can develop a customized “Know Your Neighborhood Report” with information about a new community. They can also send public school reports and a chamber of commerce packets, all at no charge.

For more information on relocation, visit MCCS OneSource Online today at www.mccsonesource.com to download information.

Log in with the username “Marines” and the password “Semperfi,” or call MCCS OneSource at (800) 869-0278 to speak with a trained consultant.

MCCS OneSource partners with Marine and Family Services. The service costs nothing and is available any time. Additionally, bilingual consultants offer simultaneous translation into more than 150 other languages, and phones are TTY/TDD accessible.

TLC wants your homecoming story

The Learning Channel is developing a television series focused on military families being reunited with their Marine or sailor after deploying.

TLC is looking for the kind of story that pulls at heartstrings, and they’re willing to provide resources to make these stories happen. For example, they have offered to fly a family or two out to greet their returning Marine or sailor if they otherwise would not be able to afford the trip. Another possibility is to facilitate a dramatic wedding proposal.

jonesvoice@aol.com. He can also be reached via fax at (858) 459-7737 and postal mail at 8039 Calle del Cielo, La Jolla, CA 92037.

Casting Call

Marines don’t have to be from California to be Hollywood Marines, they just need to report to the casting call. Nationwide casting for the next Marine Corps recruiting commercial will be from March 21 to April 6.

Depot auditions will commence March 23 at McDougall Hall from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call the public affairs office at (619) 524-8727 for news and updates. For information on other West Coast casting calls, contact your local public affairs office.

SeaWorld Honors U.S. Troops With ‘Here’s to the Heroes’ Salute

Military personnel and as many as three direct dependents are invited to visit SeaWorld for free during the adventure park’s “Here’s to the Heroes” salute, which provides single-day, free admission to a SeaWorld until Dec. 31.

Any active duty, active reserve, ready reserve service member, U.S. Coast Guard member or National Guard member is entitled to free admission under the program. To participate, military members need only register, either online at www.herosalute.com or in the park’s entrance plaza, and show a Department of Defense photo ID. As many as three direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to free admission. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents.

General park information is available at www.seaworld.com. For more information, contact SeaWorld Public Relations at (619) 226-3929.

File those taxes

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance center at the Legal Assistance Office in Bldg. 12. is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is closed Saturday and Sunday.

This free electronic tax filing is available for active duty, retired and military family members. For more information contact Staff Sgt. Olson or Staff Sgt. Chavera at (619) 524-8628 or (619) 524-8266.

Be on “I’d Do Anything”

The ESPN show “I’d Do Anything,” is looking for participants. The show does not reward the participants. It is built around good deeds and good will, when a participant would do anything – for example, play football against superior competition and get knocked around – to make a loved one’s sports dream come true. No cash prizes are involved. A Marine would have to be on leave because the filming for this show will last a week. To apply for the show, visit www.espn.com, keyword “I’d do anything.”

Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year competition

The Marine Corps Times is taking nominations for the 2005 Marine of the Year competition. Any Marine who has shown unusual or unrecognized honor, valor and dedication to fellow Marines and the community during 2004 may be nominated for this award.

- Nominations must include:
- Your name, commercial phone number and e-mail address.
 - Your nominee’s name and commercial phone number.



CG'S CUP '05

This year’s Commanding General’s Cup is well underway, and if it’s anything like last year’s competition, it should be a close race to first place. Here are this year’s remaining events:

- **St. Patrick’s Day Run, March 17**
- **Dodgeball Tournament, March 22** (coaches meet Tuesday)
- **Racquetball League, March 29** (coaches meet March 21)
- **Basketball Tournament, April 5** (coaches meet March 28)
- **Billiards League, May 17** (coaches meet May 9)
- **Softball League, May 24** (coaches meet May 16)
- **Freedom Run, June 30**
- **Flag Football League, July 5** (coaches meet June 27)
- **6-on-6 Outdoor Soccer, Aug. 16** (coaches meet Aug. 8)
- **Sand Volleyball, Sept. 27** (coaches meet Sept.19)
- **Bowling League, Oct. 3** (coaches meet Sept. 26)
- **Powerlifting Tournament, Nov. 15** (coaches meet Nov. 7)
- **Turkey Trot, Nov. 22**
- **3-on-3 Basketball, Nov. 29** (coaches meet Nov. 21)
- **Field Meet, Dec. 9**

cial phone number.

- Your nominee’s current unit commander’s name, address and commercial phone number.
 - In 300 words or less, describe why you feel your nominee deserves the award.
 - Names and contact information of three people who can verify your nominee’s achievements.
 - Nominees must be on active duty, guard or reserve through Aug. 23, 2005.
- The deadline for nominations is March 30. Nominations may be submitted online at www.marinecorpstimes.com/marine. E-mail marine@marinecorpstimes.com. Fax to (703) 642-7325, or mail to the following address: Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year Award, 6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, Va., 22159.

Mexico border area liberty policy violation update

The San Diego Police Department routinely conducts Operation Safe Crossing with the help of various local law enforcement agencies. Operation Safe Crossing is designed to deter underage drinking in Tijuana, Mexico.

All military personnel without their armed forces identification cards will be denied entry into Mexico. San Diego police will arrest any people, regardless of age, coming back from Tijuana who are too intoxicated to take care of themselves. Commander Navy Region Southwest Border Shore Patrol will maintain a visual presence and assist SDDP upon request in handling or taking custody of any military personnel.

Send briefs to edward.guevara@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.



During what participants called the toughest event of the Crucible Challenge, 16-year-old George R. Rivera attempts to maneuver over and under the Weaver.

Challenge, from pg. 1

a dozen or so drill instructors were let loose to take charge of the formation and indoctrinate the students into life as a recruit. Learning how to respond to commands, the importance of working expediently and effectively, and teamwork were all things the students quickly found

were critical to getting through the next hour.

Seventeen-year-old Wes L. Johnson, a junior at Murrieta Valley High School in Murrieta, Calif., said the experience was incredible.

“It was like a first encounter with a swarm of bees,” said Johnson, an active



A team pumps out push-ups in three minutes to earn points in the Crucible Challenge.

member of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC at his school. “It didn’t scare me about boot camp but really motivated me.”

A not-so-friendly wake up call by the drill instructors early Saturday morning got the startled, sleepy-eyed students up and moving toward nine obstacles in which team would compete for first-, sec-

ond- and third-place honors.

The 52 teams were broken into nine relays and sent on a path to complete each event, two of which were events recruits participate in during the actual Crucible. From push-ups, pull-ups and a chair carry, to racing through an inflatable obstacle course, a log weaver and a rope bridge, the students tested their physical and mental courage while learning to work as a team.

A four-man team from Murrieta Valley High School, trained for months for the chance to prove them worthy of victory.

George Rivera, a junior at Murrieta Valley said, he and his team trained every Saturday under the guidance and motivation of their local Marine recruiter, Staff Sgt. Ryan Green of Recruiting Substation Temecula. “We did our sit-ups, pull-ups and a mile-and-a-half run,” he said.

Green said having the opportunity to help the kids achieve their best through a weekly physical training program and “being able to watch them come out and give their maximum effort is what motivates me to do this. It is a great event that gets better every year.”

New to the Crucible Challenge this year was a static display of an AH-1W Super Cobra from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775 and a Light-Armored Vehicle from 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion.

“It’s really cool to see all this,” said Justin Way, a junior at Vista High School in Oceanside, Calif. “It’s great to be able to see the Cobra up close.”

Staff Sgt. Stephanie C. Stephens of Recruiting Substation San Bernardino said the static display was a great addition to this year’s event and hopes to see a larger set up next year: “It gives the kids an opportunity to see the different opportunities the Marine Corps has to offer. If we have more equipment, weapon systems and Marines of different military occupational specialties out here, the students can get some real feedback on different job opportunities and experiences they could have in the Marine Corps.”



George R. Rivera, a high school junior and active participant in the Marine Corps Junior ROTC, sprints out of an inflatable obstacle during the Crucible Challenge. Teams were timed on how quickly they could complete the course. Sgt. Valerie A. Martinez/12th District photos



George R. Rivera attempts to do one more pull-up to gain his team another point.



After a 4 a.m. wake-up call and a mess-hall breakfast, high school students stretch and warm up under the direction of Sgt. Maj. Larock Benford, Recruiting Station San Diego sergeant major.



The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps forms before their first number Saturday at Shepherd Memorial Drill Field. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron photos



The Silent Drill Platoon platoon sergeant inspects his Marines and their rifles. This inspection is the finale of the platoon's performance.

Color, from pg. 1
Playing songs old and new, the band marched in formation and executed precise movements without missing a beat.
“My favorite was the band’s rendition of ‘Rock This Town’ by Brian Setzer,” said David M. Hoffman, a spectator at the ceremony.
As the band made its way to the left side of the drill field, the Silent Drill Platoon found its way into the center. The crowd welcomed them with applause and screams.
“I’m fascinated by (the Silent Drill Platoon’s) attention to detail,” said Hoffman. “The uniformity was amazing.”

Throughout the entire routine, the platoon executed every move without spoken commands. The Marines began their routine in a simple formation while spinning, tossing and grabbing rifles. The team then separated into more complicated formations. The clacking of rifle butts pounding the blacktop, heels stomping in unison, and hands slapping wood and iron sounded over a quiet audience, which broke into cheers at moments.

After that display, the Marines gathered online for an inspection. The platoon sergeant walked the line of Marines, inspecting them until stopping at one Marine, who inspected his own rifle under the platoon sergeant’s watchful eye. With the flip of his wrist, the Marine tossed his rifle into the sergeant’s hands. Moving on, the sergeant found another Marine, and soon the three men were tossing rifles to each other.

The platoon concluded its performance and the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps escorted the national ensign and Marine Corps flag center stage while the Commandant’s Own played the Colors medley.

After the ceremony concluded, Brig. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, took time to thank all the performers.

Singling out and congratulating the Silent Drill Platoon, Brig. Gen. Paxton said, “You Marines represent the 170,000 who weren’t here.”

The Music

The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, known as “The Commandant’s Own,” combines contemporary songs and traditional marching music with uniquely choreographed drill movements in a program entitled “Music in Motion.”

The Platoon

The Silent Drill Platoon performs a precision drill unlike any other. With fixed bayonets atop their highly polished M-1 rifles, these Marines entertain audiences with their intricate drill routine performed without verbal commands. The Silent Drill Platoon’s rifle inspector highlights the performance with an unrivaled inspection of his Marines.

The Colors

The Official Colors are the Battle Colors of the Marine Corps. The 50 streamers and silver bands displayed on the Battle Color commemorate the military campaigns in which Marines have participated. They span the entire history of our nation, from the American Revolution to the present.

The Sergeant

The Color Sergeant is responsible for carrying the National Colors, and is considered the senior sergeant in the Marine Corps. He is selected for this important position from among many other outstanding sergeants throughout the Marine Corps.

Source: Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Public Affairs Office



Throughout the performance, the band marched and played in a number of formations.



Retired Sgt. Maj. Bill Paxton looks down the line of Silent Drill Platoon Marines at the end of their performance here Saturday.



The Marine Corps Color Guard, led by the Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps, marches in the Battle Color ceremony at the depot Saturday. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

Veterans, recruiters train would-be Marines in Northwest

SGT. MICHAEL FREEMAN
12th Marine Corps Recruiting District

The 6th Engineer Support Battalion, a Marine Reserve unit that recently served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, is tucked away at the end of Basin Avenue in a North Portland neighborhood known as Swan Island. The site recently served as a gathering point for Marines from the past, present and future.

About 200 of Recruiting Station Portland's Delayed Entry Program recruits, 6th ESB Marines, RS Portland recruiters and Marine veterans of World War II and Korea gathered for a day of training – physical and mental – meant to better prepare the applicants for the rigors they will face upon arriving at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego or MCRD Parris Island, S.C.

The day kicked off with calisthenics in the gray, drizzling weather characteristic of the area. Several recruiters led the recruits through warm-up exercises to get blood pumping and to set a military tone for the day.

After warming up, the recruits were ushered inside to witness a more intense workout. Sgt. Maj. Timothy Ferner, RS Portland's sergeant major, a former San Diego drill instructor and former Officer Candidate School sergeant instructor, used 6th ESB Marine volunteers to demonstrate the physical and mental stress experienced by recruits during a typical incentive training session. DEP members watched in awe as the Marines became a blur of motion — moving quickly from their feet, to their bellies, to their backs at each new command from the sergeant major.

"It's important to ensure our recruits are prepared both mentally and physically for the rigors and reality of recruit training," said Ferner. "We explain that there are reasons for everything the drill instructors do and how it is designed to benefit them, i.e. following directions, attention to detail, instant willing obedience to orders and coping with stress. These are vitally important factors that will be needed whether they find themselves in combat or in a supporting environment."

After the reservists left center stage breathing heavily, the recruits were introduced to a few men who helped build the Corps' legacy of success on the battlefield, men who had faced the enemy during World War II, the Korean War, Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Each had a unique story to tell; each had his own method of relating to and motivating the young recruits; each expressed his pride in the young men and women seated before them.

"Having World War II, Korean War, Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom vets present showed the recruits that, through generations, the Corps' weaponry and

equipment has changed but not our values and traditions," said Ferner. "All of the veterans relied on their training and esprit de corps to get them through challenges in combat. It's important for the recruits to see that, even though some of these men have been out of the Corps for many years, their love of the Corps still runs deep. It also helps the vets see a new generation eager to take up the challenge, follow in their footsteps and continue to uphold the illustrious history of the Marine Corps."

After a brief question-and-answer period, the recruits moved back outdoors to take part in the Ironman Challenge, a staple of this annual training event that highlights strength, endurance, agility and teamwork in a relay-style event. Each member of the six 10-man teams started by hammering out five pull-ups, then immediately dropping from the bar, putting on a flak jacket and Kevlar helmet and sprinting approximately 100 yards to the next station. There, recruits performed 20 four-count jumping jacks and ran a short distance to a series of three lanes taped off as a trip obstacle. On the other side, recruits grabbed rubber service rifles and sprinted top speed before dropping to the ground to high-crawl beneath a series of tape barriers.

After completing the obstacle, recruits dropped their rifles and performed 10 push-ups while 6th ESB Marines counted them out. Getting to their feet quickly, recruits then sprinted an additional 100 yards to a large truck tire and called out for the next recruit in line at the pull-up bars to repeat the series. When the first five recruits reached the tire, they encircled it and hoisted it up onto their shoulders to carry it approximately 25 yards toward the pull-up bars, then reversed their direction, flipping the tire end-over-end until it was back in its original place, waiting for the next five in the team to assemble there and complete the same tasks, which stopped the clock. The victor was the RSS Vancouver team. That substation has also been the champion of the Sergeant Major's Cup Field Meet (North) for two consecutive years, cementing the title as RS Portland's most physically fit DEP.

After the competition, winners were announced and recruits filed back inside for a brief respite from training and a Meal-Ready-to-Eat lunch. After eating, the recruits were given a class on the M-16 A2 service rifle. Recruits were taught the four weapons safety rules and weapons conditions before learning how to disassemble and reassemble the weapon. Recruiters at each table used rifles to offer close demonstrations while the instructor talked the recruits through the step-by-step procedure. Then, under Marine supervision, each recruit was allowed an opportunity for practical application.

At the end of the class, recruiters tested the recruits'

knowledge and comfort level with the weapons. Each recruiting substation supplied its best recruit to represent its pool in a competition to see which recruit could dismantle and reassemble the weapon the fastest. Substation Salem posted the fastest time: 1 minute, 48 seconds.

"It's a great opportunity for us to bring the recruits together to form a bond and experience Marine Corps camaraderie, and (the event) gives them the chance to receive some basic training and get a head start before reporting to recruit training," said Staff Sgt. Luis Lopez, RS Portland pool specialist. "It's a fun, motivating way to teach these recruits about the organization they're joining."



Bert Jepson, a Delayed Entry Program recruit from Recruiting Substation Beaverton, disassembles an M-16 A2 service rifle provided by 6th Engineer Support Battalion. During the daylong training, poolies competed to see who could disassemble and reassemble the weapon fastest.



Recruiting Substation Beaverton poolies flip a large tire end-over-end on their way to the finish line during a challenge at 6th Engineer Support Battalion's Swan Island headquarters in North Portland. RSS Vancouver ultimately won the challenge, building upon its growing reputation as Recruiting Station Portland's physical-fitness powerhouse. Sgt. Michael Freeman/12th District photos



Pfc. Noah Ramos stands in formation by the recruit post exchange. Noah left training for a week to attend his brother Hector's funeral. Lance Cpl. Dorin Gardner/Chevron

Little brother, big loss

Marine died in Iraq while brother pressed on in recruit training

RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

BY LANCE CPL. DORIAN GARDNER
Chevron Staff

Pfc. Noah Ramos was smack-dab in the middle of boot camp when they told him his younger brother died in a crash. Lance Cpl. Hector Ramos was one of 31 service members killed in a helicopter crash Jan. 26 in Iraq.

Noah, a 21-year-old recruit in his second phase of training with Company K, was laying in a prone firing position on the rifle range waiting to practice when a Marine squawked his name over a loud speaker and ordered him off the firing line. As ordered, Noah stood aside and waited. His senior drill instructor walked him back to the barracks.

"On the way to the (senior's office) I was getting feelings that something was wrong with my family," said Noah.

After a long wait in the barracks, the drill instructor opened the door and told Noah to come inside the office. That's when Noah saw the chaplain and the company commander, and the chaplain broke the news.

"All I could do was just cry," said Noah. "I was thinking about what happened, how did he die ... so many questions."

After the sad news, Noah's drill instructor gave him time alone.

"All those things you hear about soldiers, you never really think about until it happens to somebody you know," said Noah. "You just wish it never happened."

With his brother being a part of an infantry unit, Noah knew Hector placed himself in harm's way, but losing him was unexpected, according to Noah.

Before the Marine Corps, the brothers grew up in Aurora, Ill., a small town outside Chicago. They lived with both parents and an 11-year-old brother. Between the two, it was always more reasonable to believe that Noah would join the military and Hector would go to college.

"(Hector) always talked about art school, but when 9/11 came, he got angry. (He) went and saw the recruiters the same day," said Noah.

In his teens, Noah had a growing interest in the military – specifically the Army because interaction with soldiers in his area and around the high school was common. "I was eating and sleeping Army."

Like many children who are too young to be soldiers, Noah and his brothers, along with neighborhood friends, used to play war games in the back yard.

In school, Noah grew more interested in the Army while Hector got better at his artwork. A year older than Hector, Noah graduated high school and decided to pursue his college education. Hector on the other hand, decided that he had seen enough books, and he wanted to try something that was a little bit more hands-on.

Shortly after Noah finished college, his brother graduated boot camp.

Noah said Hector ended up recruiting him into the Marine Corps. When Noah would talk about joining the National Guard, Hector would ask him why.

By the time Noah left for boot camp, Hector was in Iraq with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division.

According to Department of Defense reports, Hector and 29 other Marines, along with a Navy corpsman, were on a mission in support of the Jan. 31 Iraq elections. Sandstorms throughout Iraq had caused many helicopter flight systems to fail. The CH-53 Super Stallion helicopter carrying Hector went down Jan. 26, about 220 miles west of Baghdad.

Noah said Hector would write him letters daily. The last letter Noah received was in the middle of February. The postmark was dated Jan. 21, just days before the crash.

Noah said Hector wrote the letter

when he was leaving Fallujah.

"I still read them," said Noah. "He never wrote about serious stuff. He (wrote) about things that he (wanted) us to do when he (got) back."

It was never the letters or talking about his brother that made Noah long to see Hector again. It was hearing "Taps" play for fallen warriors every night while he lay in bed that made Noah think about Hector the most.

Noah found a new way to view the tragedy of his brother's death: "He had accomplished more at the age of 20 than most people. I was proud. I didn't want to lose a brother, but I know that he was (proud) the way he went."

After attending Hector's funeral, Noah said he had to finish training. Some recruits, as well as drill instructors, noticed a change in Noah.

"He was quieter, but he stepped it up with his actions... physically," said Staff Sgt. Walter F. Layton, Platoon 3053 senior drill instructor, Company K.

Noah also said he aspires to be like Hector: "It motivated me knowing that my brother died serving his country and not in the streets."

Noah, who graduates recruit training today and joins a vast band of brothers, said Hector was his guide to becoming a Marine, and he will serve proudly.

KILO COMPANY



COMPANY HONORMAN
Lance Cpl. C. S. Quinlan
Midland, Mich.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. C. J. Barrett



SERIES HONORMAN
Pfc. N. R. Russell
Brown Deer, Wis.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. J. Hillard



PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. F. O. Oluoch
Bloomington, Minn.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. F. Ovalle



PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. J. B. Goodman
Russelville, Ark.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. W. T. Jackson



PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. P. M. Medrano
Lakewood, Calif.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. U. Jackson



PLATOON HONORMAN
Pfc. C. E. Kasper
Auburn, Wash.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. A. Vipa



HIGH PFT (300)
Pfc. F. O. Oluoch
Bloomington, Minn.
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. F. Ovalle



HIGH SHOOTER (241)
Pfc. K. K. Jahn
Salem, Ore.
Marksmanship Instructor:
Sgt. K. Miller



Pfc. Jason A. Rios, Platoon 3055, performs a Marine Corps Martial Arts Technique on a fellow recruit Feb. 18 during Company K's tan-belt martial arts test. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

Pfc. J. F. Koesters
Pvt. J. R. Langston
Pfc. L. S. Leach
Pfc. A. J. Leduc
Pvt. S. M. Leduc
Pvt. C. S. Licht
Pvt. F. H. Little
Pvt. N. Lopez
Pvt. T. J. McCabe
Pvt. C. D. Martinez
Pvt. R. D. Martinez
Pvt. J. P. Maxwell
Pfc. J. R. McKinney
Pvt. S. C. Meier
Pvt. J. M. Moehnle
Pvt. J. P. Nelson
Pvt. W. D. Moore
Pvt. R. U. Moreno
Pvt. N. Odell
*Pfc. A. A. Olivares
*Pfc. F. O. Oluoch
Pvt. G. M. Patterson Jr.
Pvt. J. J. Ponce
Pvt. K. J. Porter
Pvt. J. R. Priest
Pvt. E. M. Renteria
Pvt. C. Santibanez
Pfc. J. J. Shaw
Pvt. D. C. Smart
Pvt. J. G. Smith
Pvt. B. W. Steward
Pvt. S. J. Therkildson
Pfc. J. M. Thompson
Pfc. S. L. Welsh

PLATOON 3050
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. D. W. Johnson
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. E. Cole
Staff Sgt. M. Bermudez
Staff Sgt. D. Luna

Pfc. P. N. Allen
Pvt. R. J. Andis
Pfc. G. Araki
Pfc. J. C. Ashley
Pvt. C. T. Barrs
Pvt. J. T. Bates
Pvt. J. L. Bautista
Pvt. K. C. Blaylock
Pfc. D. A. Brewer
Pfc. M. D. Buckley
Pvt. D. R. Camacho
Pvt. J. H. Casper
Pfc. R. B. Christensen
Pvt. T. J. Clemmons
Pvt. C. D. Collentine
*Pfc. N. D. Cossey
Pvt. M. A. Daniels
Pvt. K. D. Decatoire
Pvt. J. K. Disler
Pvt. K. E. Dow
*Pfc. M. J. Fields
Pvt. R. D. Fitzgerald
Pvt. A. R. Flaisz
Pvt. J. F. Flanagan
Pvt. B. C. Flowers
Pfc. N. P. Forrest
Pvt. R. J. Galvan
*Pfc. K. E. Gedwill
Pfc. J. B. Goodman
Pvt. J. J. Granville
Pvt. W. E. Gray
Pvt. A. J. Greving
*Pfc. D. E. Griffin
*Pfc. A. J. Healey
Pvt. R. C. Held
Pvt. J. L. Hennes
Pvt. B. A. Hill
Pvt. J. R. Hinkle
Pfc. D. J. C. Hollingshead
Pvt. C. Houmarek
Pvt. D. M. Howden
Pvt. S. M. Isaak
Pvt. J. L. Lockard
Pvt. F. J. Hernandez
Pfc. M. D. Holmquist
*Pfc. K. K. Jahn
*Pfc. J. R. Jordan
Pvt. L. W. Kinsey
Pvt. D. T. Kuchenbecker
Pfc. K. A. Lagasse

Pvt. L. H. Lecointre
Pvt. A. Lucero
Pvt. M. A. Lucero
Pvt. M. J. Lupo
Pvt. A. M. Luttinen
Pvt. C. D. Maginnis
Pvt. F. H. Martinez
Pvt. C. R. McAtee
Pvt. T. J. McCabe
Pvt. R. L. McCadle
Pvt. S. D. McCleneghan
Pvt. S. L. Michaelson
Pfc. J. C. Moore
Pvt. K. J. Morrill
Pfc. J. J. Moseley
Pvt. J. P. Nelson
Pvt. A. Olvera
*Pfc. L. W. Papke
Pvt. J. A. Parker
Pvt. D. D. Parker
Pvt. M. R. Pelphrey
Pvt. D. M. Pendersen
Pvt. D. W. Pforsich
Pvt. J. H. Ramos
Pvt. T. J. Rhodes
Pvt. K. R. Shutic
Pvt. D. Vargas
Pfc. C. G. Whitehead

PLATOON 3051
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. D. R. Kazmar
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. O. Pineda
Staff Sgt. W. C. O'connor
Sgt. D. W. Falley

Pvt. C. L. Algrim
*Pfc. B. K. Angle
Pvt. T. R. Barnes
Pvt. D. B. Barry
Pfc. A. R. Belz
Pvt. A. Benavides
Pvt. B. E. Bowers
Pfc. C. J. Bowman
Pvt. K. S. Boykin
Pvt. T. Brown
Pvt. J. P. Bunch
Pvt. J. L. Burlew
Pvt. C. D. Burton
Pfc. V. P. Capizzo
Pvt. O. Carrillo
Pvt. D. Castro
Pfc. B. R. Cavanaugh
Pvt. H. G. Cesinger
Pvt. M. A. Chavez
Pfc. I. M. Chewey
Pvt. T. J. Chiddix
Pfc. T. J. Comeau
Pvt. K. D. Delancey
Pvt. T. D. Dixon
Pvt. N. O. Dristy
Pvt. D. J. Ellis
Pvt. A. Esparza
Pvt. M. C. Fazzurrubiate
Pfc. D. J. Frohlich
*Pfc. J. C. Galbaldon
Pvt. S. A. Gallegos
Pvt. R. J. Graftema
*Pfc. A. M. Graves
Pvt. J. L. Grimes
Pvt. D. Gutierrez
Pvt. J. W. Hackett
Pvt. J. C. Hajek
Pfc. A. L. Hoggan
Pvt. A. L. Holt
Pvt. R. M. Hurt
Pvt. D. L. Jones
Pfc. J. W. Karr
Pvt. L. O. Knight
Pvt. A. S. Krueger
Pvt. N. S. Leonard
Pfc. R. A. Linn
Pvt. J. L. Lockard
Pvt. M. J. Maleski
Pvt. A. J. Marler
Pvt. M. A. Martinez
Pvt. G. S. McRoberts
Pfc. L. Medina
Pvt. R. M. Meier
Pfc. K. A. Moellendorf

Pvt. M. L. Monson
*Pfc. M. L. Montoya
*Pfc. A. L. Mosteller
Pfc. T. Moua
Pfc. R. D. Munoz
Pvt. J. G. Nava
Pvt. A. B. Nelson
Pvt. C. A. Olson
Pfc. A. F. O'Neal
Pvt. J. D. Parker-Miller
Pvt. C. L. Peterson
Pvt. D. A. Pittard
*Lance Cpl. C. S. Quinlan
Pvt. B. J. Ramirez
*Pfc. C. L. Reeves
Pvt. J. C. Remster
Pfc. C. Reyes
Pvt. E. J. Rivas-Ramos
Pvt. A. D. Romero
Pfc. B. M. Satterfield
Pvt. C. M. Simmons
Pvt. N. G. Sledd
Pfc. A. T. Smith
Pvt. R. A. Stanton
Pvt. C. D. Taylor

PLATOON 3053
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. W. F. Layton
Drill Instructors
Sgt. I. M. Bamba
Sgt. J. D. Hulette
Sgt. R. R. White

Pvt. A. R. Akers
*Pfc. J. M. Andrisевич
Pfc. R. Banuelos
Pvt. J. A. Barrerocasallas
Pfc. J. M. Beltran
Pvt. J. W. Blacker
Pvt. F. E. Blackshere
Pfc. S. L. Burgess
Pfc. C. A. Carlisle
Pvt. D. R. Carroll
Pvt. E. C. Chavezandoval
Pvt. A. L. Getty
Pvt. J. R. Herndon
Pvt. B. G. Iseminger
Pvt. B. A. Jacobsen
*Pfc. A. H. Jones
Pvt. R. P. Landers
Pvt. T. N. Lawson
Pvt. L. M. Malacara III
Pvt. E. Mathis
Pfc. G. C. McNew
Pvt. S. P. McQuillan
Pvt. D. B. Mellard
Pvt. O. Meza
Pfc. M. E. Millard
Pvt. J. C. Mink
Pvt. C. J. Motta
Pvt. E. J. Nava
Pvt. A. P. Nelson
Pvt. J. D. Palacios
Pvt. N. P. Pasneckner
Pfc. M. D. Petersen
Pvt. N. A. Ramos
Pfc. M. E. Rice
Pvt. S. Rizera
Pvt. N. A. Robinson
Pfc. G. Rodriguez
Pvt. M. Rodriguez
Pvt. P. I. Rodriguez
Pfc. G. M. Romero
Pfc. M. W. Routson
Pvt. G. L. Ruiz
Pvt. H. V. Ruiz
*Pfc. N. R. Russell
Pvt. D. P. Ryan
Pvt. J. V. Salazar
Pvt. S. E. Salazar
Pfc. C. Sanchez
Pvt. R. A. Sardelli
Pvt. T. J. Schwab
Pvt. A. M. Schwartz
Pvt. W. L. Sears
Pvt. T. M. Sharbono
*Pfc. S. A. Shaver
Pvt. S. M. Sieks
Pvt. F. D. Sierra
Pfc. A. J. Smith
Pvt. H. R. Smith
Pvt. T. G. Smith



Pvt. Alexis M. Camy, Platoon 3054, executes a counter move to a punch by Pfc. Jared A. Reeder, 3054, foreground, during final basic-skills martial arts testing. Lance Cpl. Dorian Gardner/Chevron

Pfc. T. O. Smith
Pvt. G. C. Smithson
Pvt. J. S. Soto
Pvt. J. D. Spinks
Pvt. P. R. Stephens
Pvt. S. M. Stone
*Pfc. D. C. Swanson
Pvt. T. H. Swanson
Pfc. D. M. Ta
Pvt. C. L. Toothman
Pvt. J. A. Tracy
Pfc. D. A. Trahan
Pvt. D. B. Tribble
Pvt. M. C. Warrington
*Pfc. N. L. Weber
Pvt. C. R. White
Pfc. B. L. Willhite
Pfc. M. R. Zachary
Pfc. S. R. Zelnier
Pfc. A. M. Zerger

PLATOON 3054
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. C. R. Murphy
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. D. L. Aldrich
Sgt. H. M. Flores
Sgt. B. L. Kriner
Sgt. H. P. Lacanalao

Pfc. A. I. Arruda
Pvt. J. C. Agulto
Pvt. A. M. Aimo Jr.
Pvt. S. T. Bear
Pvt. B. W. Burt
Pvt. A. M. Camy
*Pfc. J. L. Cartwright
Pvt. M. Chavez
Pvt. J. T. Cowger
*Pfc. V. I. Cruz Jr.

Pvt. C. J. Cuddy
*Pfc. N. T. Flanagan
*Pfc. J. P. Freeman
Pvt. V. A. Gilmore
Pvt. M. J. Gonzalez
Pvt. S. L. Grimes
Pfc. B. L. Harwood
Pvt. B. D. Harwood
Pvt. W. D. Hiett
Pvt. I. D. Klone
Pvt. J. M. Kromminga
Pvt. B. P. Liberton
Pvt. J. L. Loeffler
Pvt. D. J. Long
Pvt. D. J. Malin
Pvt. T. Mandujano
Pvt. R. G. Manglay
*Pfc. E. G. Martinez
Pvt. S. J. May
Pvt. J. R. McNichols
Pfc. P. M. Medrano
Pfc. J. M. Montes
Pvt. J. W. Morley III
Pvt. S. P. Morris
Pvt. J. T. Munson
Pvt. K. A. Murphy
Pvt. B. L. Nikkel
Pvt. F. M. Padilla
Pvt. B. Y. Prevost
Pvt. C. M. Quintanilla
*Pfc. J. A. Reeder
Pfc. W. R. Richardson
Pvt. E. Rodriguez
Pvt. G. K. Rogers
Pvt. J. A. Scott
*Pfc. E. E. Seguramunoz
Pvt. N. D. Shisler
Pvt. B. M. Shobar
Pvt. C. R. Shortlidge
Pfc. J. B. Simister
Pfc. S. T. Simmons

Pfc. S. J. Smith
Pvt. T. E. Sosnowski
Pvt. K. D. Soules
Pvt. Z. I. Sowers
Pvt. R. S. Stafford
Pvt. M. R. Steinberger
Pvt. J. S. Stuart
Pvt. K. A. Suchoza
Pvt. R. M. Tacata
Pfc. E. C. Tauber
Pvt. T. E. Thomas
Pfc. H. W. Titus
Pvt. V. V. Tran
Pfc. D. J. Underwood
Pvt. M. A. Vasquez
Pvt. A. P. Vigil
Pvt. C. J. Watson
Pfc. J. M. Wayne
Pvt. J. M. Wegrzyn
Pfc. A. S. Weisbrod
Pvt. A. C. Whiteley
Pvt. U. V. Whitman
Pvt. B. T. Willis
Pvt. J. Wither
Pvt. J. J. Wohlers
Pvt. G. L. Woodard
Pvt. C. Xiong
Pvt. V. S. Xiong
Pvt. D. A. Zacca
Pvt. C. E. Zwinggi

PLATOON 3055
Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. T. M. Coyer
Drill Instructors
Sgt. M. V. Leon
Sgt. M. A. Dorsey
Sgt. R. L. Escamilla
Sgt. J. E. Tyson
Pvt. R. Avila

Pvt. B. Ballesteros
Pvt. J. A. Barbosa
*Pfc. J. S. Batsel
Pvt. S. M. Bedore
Pfc. N. M. Blanchard
Pvt. E. J. Boehmer
Pvt. B. Boyd
Pfc. W. T. Brown
Pvt. P. A. Brownsberger
Pvt. S. Campos
*Pfc. C. R. Caylor
Pfc. J. D. Cecil
Pvt. M. A. Cornwell
Pfc. J. Cottom
Pfc. B. B. Dorff
Pvt. C. M. Elmquist
Pvt. P. J. Fitch
Pvt. J. J. Forde
Pfc. C. W. Foster
Pfc. L. Gonzalez
Pvt. A. V. Trivedi
Pvt. E. Gormley
Pvt. M. B. Gravel
Pvt. K. A. Gutierrez
Pvt. D. L. Horne
Pvt. R. M. Irving
Pvt. M. Jenkins
*Pfc. C. E. Kasper
Pvt. C. J. Keeney
Pvt. N. Leman
Pvt. J. K. Martini
Pvt. D. J. McCormick
Pfc. J. W. Meek
Pvt. A. L. Merklng
Pvt. J. A. Michel
Pvt. C. A. Mitchell
*Pfc. R. Montague
*Pfc. W. K. Moore
Pvt. A. J. Morgan
Pvt. A. Muniz
Pvt. C. M. Nelson

Pvt. J. N. Offringa
Pvt. S. Palmera
Pvt. J. E. Patrick
Pfc. A. Penn
Pvt. P. D. Phillips
Pfc. J. E. Ponshock
Pvt. D. L. Prince
Pvt. K. A. Quade
Pfc. C. R. Reed
Pvt. J. A. Renfro
Pfc. J. A. Rios
Pvt. C. Z. Roam
Pfc. C. E. Robinson
Pfc. B. D. Schall
Pvt. J. J. Schwartz
Pvt. J. Sedgwick
Pvt. J. A. Soltis
*Pfc. J. L. Spelts
Pfc. M. J. Thomas
Pfc. M. B. Tijerina
Pfc. A. V. Trivedi
Pvt. P. E. Twiss
Pvt. W. J. Utterback
Pfc. J. M. Vandeman
Pfc. B. C. Vantleven
Pfc. J. E. Villanueva
Pfc. J. B. Waddle
Pvt. C. R. Walker
Pfc. J. D. Walker
Pvt. C. C. Warner
Pvt. B. J. Wars
Pvt. T. J. Watts
Pvt. B. A. Weinauf
Pvt. J. P. Wells
Pfc. C. Wolters
Pvt. S. E. Wright
Pvt. J. Yates
Pvt. R. Zavala
*Meritorious promotion

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT & WESTERN RECRUITING REGION
Commanding General
BRIG. GEN. J. M. PAXTON JR.
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. F. E. PULLEY

RECRUIT TRAINING REGIMENT
Band Officer
COL. W. M. CALLIHAN
Sergeant Major
SGT. MAJ. M. L. SHEPARD
Regimental Drill Master
GUNNERY SGT. C. WALKER
Parade Adjutant
CAPT. W. P. BROWN
Narrator
STAFF SGT. R. E. JIMENEZ

MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO
Band Officer
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER E. M. HAYES
Band Master
MASTER SGT. D. W. PRICE
COLOR GUARD
SGT. C. J. ANDERSON
SGT. I. M. BAMBA
PFC. M. B. TIERINA
PFC. J. A. RIOS

THIRD RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION
Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. R. W. Gates
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. S. B. Mearkle
Chaplain
Lt. F. P. Munoz
Battalion Drill Master
Gunnery Sgt. C. T. Balcazar

COMPANY K
Commanding Officer
Capt. J. T. Doan
Company First Sergeant
First Sgt. A. H. Bahney
Company Corpsman
Petty Officer 2nd Class
Gonzalez

SERIES 3049
Series Commander

Capt. A. T. Young
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. W. E. Covington

SERIES 3053
Series Commander
Capt. W. E. Marple
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Staff Sgt. M. J. Williams

Pvt. C. J. Anderson
Pvt. R. J. Anderson
Pvt. R. P. Andrada

Pfc. R. V. Arellano
Pvt. H. Arvizu
Pfc. J. A. Bangert
Pfc. J. D. Beatrice
Pvt. N. M. Belber
Pvt. S. M. Bird
Pvt. K. N. Brown
Pvt. B. A. Bruce
Pvt. H. B. Bunch II
Pvt. C. D. Carver
Pfc. D. P. Castaneda
Pvt. J. M. Cates
Pvt. J. T. Certain
Pvt. S. A. Chriss
*Pfc. K. E. Collier
Pvt. J. M. Congram
Pvt. D. V. Cook
Pvt. J. A. Corleto
*Pfc. C. D. Corona
Pfc. K. A. Crain
Pvt. J. Dacayanan
Pvt. A. Delarosa

Pvt. C. D. Delatorre
Pvt. J. C. Diaz
Pvt. S. W. Fowler
Pfc. R. T. Gaines
Pfc. G. Galicia
Pvt. R. V. Garcia
Pfc. D. J. Gerchman
Pfc. C. R. Godkin
Pfc. W. L. Gonzales
Pvt. J. D. Gonzalez
Pvt. D. P. Greene
Pfc. A. S. Groene
Pfc. N. M. Halpin
Pvt. D. P. Haraden
Pvt. J. L. Harrel
Pvt. F. J. Hernandez
Pfc. M. D. Holmquist
*Pfc. K. K. Jahn
*Pfc. J. R. Jordan
Pvt. L. W. Kinsey
Pvt. D. T. Kuchenbecker
Pfc. K. A. Lagasse

Pvt. L. H. Lecointre
Pvt. A. Lucero
Pvt. M. A. Lucero
Pvt. M. J. Lupo
Pvt. A. M. Luttinen
Pvt. C. D. Maginnis
Pvt. F. H. Martinez
Pvt. C. R. McAtee
Pvt. T. J. McCabe
Pvt. R. L. McCadle
Pvt. S. D. McCleneghan
Pvt. S. L. Michaelson
Pfc. J. C. Moore
Pvt. K. J. Morrill
Pfc. J. J. Moseley
Pvt. J. P. Nelson
Pvt. A. Olvera
*Pfc. L. W. Papke
Pvt. J. A. Parker
Pvt. D. D. Parker
Pvt. M. R. Pelphrey
Pvt. D. M. Pendersen
Pvt. D. W. Pforsich
Pvt. J. H. Ramos
Pvt. T. J. Rhodes
Pvt. K. R. Shutic
Pvt. D. Vargas
Pfc. C. G. Whitehead

Pvt. A. R. Akers
*Pfc. J. M. Andrisевич
Pfc. R. Banuelos
Pvt. J. A. Barrerocasallas
Pfc. J. M. Beltran
Pvt. J. W. Blacker
Pvt. F. E. Blackshere
Pfc. S. L. Burgess
Pfc. C. A. Carlisle
Pvt. D. R. Carroll
Pvt. E. C. Chavezandoval
Pvt. A. L. Getty
Pvt. J. R. Herndon
Pvt. B. G. Iseminger
Pvt. B. A. Jacobsen
*Pfc. A. H. Jones
Pvt. R. P. Landers
Pvt. T. N. Lawson
Pvt. L. M. Malacara III
Pvt. E. Mathis
Pfc. G. C. McNew
Pvt. S. P. McQuillan
Pvt. D. B. Mellard
Pvt. O. Meza
Pfc. M. E. Millard
Pvt. J. C. Mink
Pvt. C. J. Motta
Pvt. E. J. Nava
Pvt. A. P. Nelson
Pvt. J. D. Palacios
Pvt. N. P. Pasneckner
Pfc. M. D. Petersen
Pvt. N. A. Ramos
Pfc. M. E. Rice
Pvt. S. Rizera
Pvt. N. A. Robinson
Pfc. G. Rodriguez
Pvt. M. Rodriguez
Pvt. P. I. Rodriguez
Pfc. G. M. Romero
Pfc. M. W. Routson
Pvt. G. L. Ruiz
Pvt. H. V. Ruiz
*Pfc. N. R. Russell
Pvt. D. P. Ryan
Pvt. J. V. Salazar
Pvt. S. E. Salazar
Pfc. C. Sanchez
Pvt. R. A. Sardelli
Pvt. T. J. Schwab
Pvt. A. M. Schwartz
Pvt. W. L. Sears
Pvt. T. M. Sharbono
*Pfc. S. A. Shaver
Pvt. S. M. Sieks
Pvt. F. D. Sierra
Pfc. A. J. Smith
Pvt. H. R. Smith
Pvt. T. G. Smith

COMPANY CURIOSITIES Here's how men from Kilo Company answered Chevron's questions about their interests and boot camp experiences:

Q: What's your favorite Meal Ready to Eat?



Pvt. Manuel Rodriguez Jr. Houston

A: Beef steak. It really tastes like it.

Q: Why did you join the Marine Corps?



Pvt. Isaac Rodriguez Perez Diego

A: To serve this great ... country, around the world. I want to give my family the best.

Q: What was your worst civilian job?



Pvt. Nicholas A. Robinson Delafield, Wis.

A: Fast-food pizza cashier.

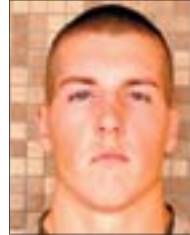
Q: What civilian habit was the hardest to break?



Pfc. Andrew M. Zerger Flagstaff, Ariz.

A: Talking in the first-person.

Q: What was the scariest moment of your training?



Pfc. Michael W. Rouston Weiser, Ind.

A: Black Friday (the first day with Co. K). I was confused and there was a lot of yelling.



Elena Salsitz

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Elena Salsitz was born in Corpus Christi, Texas. Upon graduation from high school in Louisville, Ky., Salsitz attended Duke University where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in history. She went on to earn her master's in business administration from Columbia University in New York City. While a student at Columbia, Salsitz worked for NBC as a financial analyst on the satellite-broadcasting project.

From Columbia, Salsitz went to work for Eli Lilly and Company in media relations and corporate affairs. Following Lilly, Salsitz serves as special assistant to the mayor of Indianapolis, where she was liaison to national and regional boards, and coordinated the mayor's hosting of the 1987 Pan Am Games. From Indianapolis, Salsitz moved to Houston, where she became chief of Protocol for the NASA, Johnson Space Center. At NASA, Salsitz hosted hundreds of high-level officials from the United States and around the world, including U.S. Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, the queen of England, the duchess of York, Russian President Boris Yelsin, the cast and crew of "Apollo 13," and many others. Salsitz also managed several commemorations of historical space events, including the missions of Apollo 11 and Apollo-Soyuz, and managed the center's involvement in the 1991 G-7 World Economic Summit and the 1992 Republican National Convention.

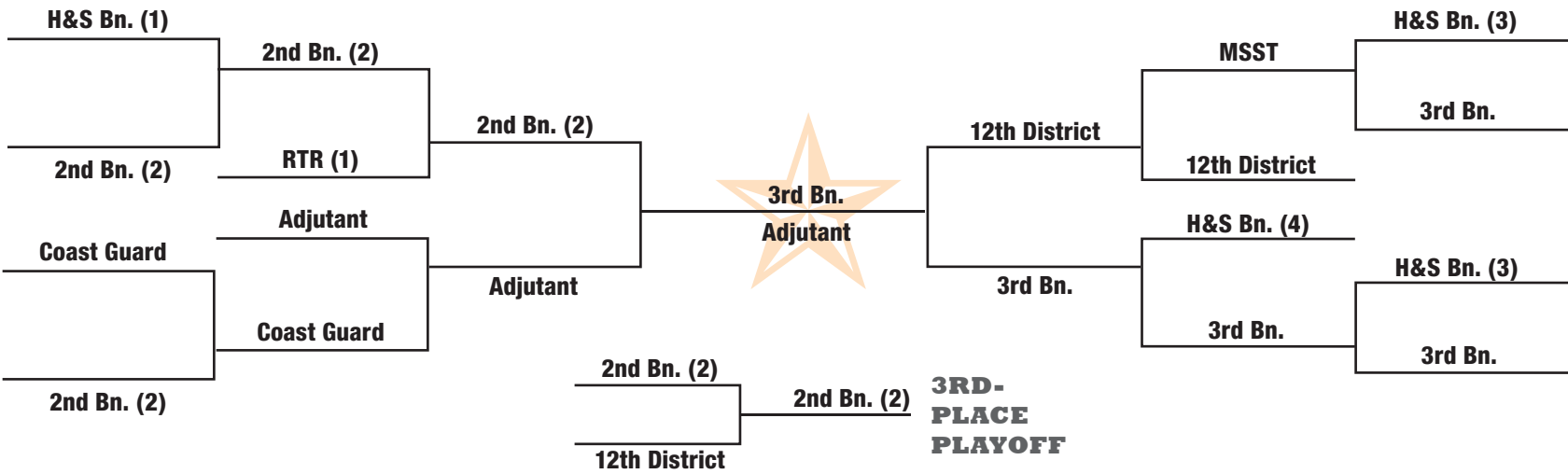
While at NASA, Salsitz served a detail at the White House as a special assistant to the Social Secretary. Her duties there included managing musical entertainment for all the president and first lady's holiday receptions.

Since 2000, Salsitz has served as chief of Protocol to San Diego mayor Dick Murphy. During this time Salsitz has managed various high-level visits and events involving dignitaries, diplomats, and officials from around the world. Some of these guests include President George W. Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, Secretary for Homeland Security Tom Ridge, the duke of York and many others.

Away from the office, Salsitz has volunteered time teaching citizenship and language classes for Read San Diego, and tutored Somalian and Ethiopian refugee school children with the International Rescue Committee Program at Crawford High School in San Diego. She has also served as an anchor for public broadcasting fund-raising drives.

Salsitz currently resides in La Jolla, Calif., with her husband Ken Cohen and their two dogs.

CG'S CUP WALLYBALL SINGLE-ELIMINATION PLAYOFFS



Cpl. Chris I. Marquez's Adjutant teammates can only watch as he dives for an out-of-reach return. Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr./Chevron photos



Big Blue walls Adj.

RTR also beats District for 3rd-place

BY CPL. EDWARD R. GUEVARA JR.
Chevron staff

Recruit Training Regiment's Big Blue shut down Headquarters and Service Battalion's Adjutant 2-0 in the final match of the Commanding General's Cup wallyball tournament at the depot racquetball courts Tuesday.

A determined Big Blue took advantage and pounced on an overconfident Adjutant.

The H&S Marines said they went into the tourney thinking they were going to clean house without opposition. They had been practicing for the last three months during many of their normal physical training sessions, according to Cpl. Chris I. Marquez.

Big Blue's 1st Sgt. Dathan C. Edwards, a CG's Cup volleyball veteran and first-time wallyball player, had problems adjusting to the walls around him. On a volleyball court, his spikes would hit straight down and in, but the walls prevented that in this game, he said. After some coaching from teammate Sgt. Maj. Scott B. Mearkle, Edwards began hitting more strategic spikes off the sidewalls.

In a 25-16 first game win, Big Blue showed Adjutant they meant business and were after the top points in the tourney. RTR's 2nd Recruit Training

3RD BN. ADJUTANT 25 25
16 17

Battalion took third place after beating 12th Marine Corps Recruiting District 2-1.

Adjutant only managed to score one point higher in the second game, scoring 17 against Big Blue's 25 and surrendering hopes to earn more points for H&S.

Wallyball is similar to volleyball with the exception of the walls.

Twelve teams played in the one-day tournament. Teams were allowed four players on the court at a time and could rotate in their maximum of two extra players. Some players were added to existing teams at the last minute.

Instead of hitting square-on shots, the strategy of the day was to bounce shots off walls into the other team's side.

Spectators watched through a small window into a single court used throughout the tournament. The referee occupied the other window on the second floor of the building.

For information on intramural sports, call Rachel Dickinson at (619) 524-0548.



Adjutant's Sgt. Daniel H. Bernardino battles Big Blue's Gunnery Sgt. Christopher T. Balcazar, right, at the net during the CG's Cup wallyball tourney championship match Tuesday.